GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4462
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2002
WORKING OF ZOOS
PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether no proper medical care for wild animals is available in zoos and zoo authorities do not give the animals the food of the quality that is prescribed to be given to them; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to improve the working of zoos?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) As per the appraisal carried out by the Central Zoo Authority on the health care and upkeep of animals kept by Zoos in the country, out of 15 large Zoos, which are required to have a minimum of two veterinarians for proper health care of animals, 7 Zoos have only one Veterinarian. Eight medium and small Zoos do not have full time Veterinarian at all.

Periodical evaluation of the Zoos by the Central Zoo Authority has revealed that proper feeding schedules are being maintained. Quality of feed for the animals is checked regularly by the Veterinarian incharge of the zoo and other authorised officials.

(b) The Central Zoo Authority has issued directives to the concerned State Governments for taking remedial measures regarding posting of prescribed number of Veterinarians. Chairman of the Central Zoo Authority (Minister of Environment and Forests) has also written to the Chief Ministers of concerned States for intervention in this regard at their level.